

THE GREAT YARMOUTH
EDUCATION AUTHORITY.



THE
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER

For 1917.

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C. A. CAMPLING, LTD., PRINTERS, NEAR TOWN HALL.
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*To the Members of the Education Authority of
Great Yarmouth.*

TOWN HALL,

GREAT YARMOUTH,

April, 1918.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

In submitting my tenth Annual Report on the work of School Medical Inspection it is necessary, as in the last Report, to draw attention to its unusual brevity. Owing to the continuation of war conditions, your School Medical Service has for the past two years been working under considerable difficulty, there being no Assistant Medical Officer and, as a consequence, the entire work falling upon me in addition to my Public Health duties. I am pleased to state that the interests of the children have in no way suffered by this. What has, however, necessarily been in abeyance is the collection of the mass of statistics usually to be found in this report. Fortunately the Board of Education, recognising this difficulty, are prepared to accept a condensed report of the following character.

The usual number and classes of children were inspected during the year 1917 at the routine examinations, viz.:—Entrants (all children admitted to school for the first time), 8-year-olds and Leavers (all children over 12 years of age who had not previously been inspected at that age).

The following table gives a classified list : —

TABLE I. A.

AGE.		BOYS.	GIRLS.	TOTAL.
Entrants	4 years	6	5	11
	5 „	266	289	555
	6 „	140	143	283
	Other ages	27	18	45
Intermediate				
Group	8 years	444	454	898
	12 years	434	400	834
	13 „	68	43	111
	14 „	2	4	6
		1387	1356	2743
		Entrants.	8 years.	Leavers.
Boys		439	444	504
Girls		455	454	447
		894	898	951

In addition to the foregoing “code” groups, “special cases” and “re-examinations” were as follows :—

TABLE I. B.

		<i>Special cases.</i>	<i>No. of children re-examined.</i>
Boys	...	452	184
Girls	...	446	203
		<u>898</u>	<u>387</u>

DEFECTS FOUND ON MEDICAL INSPECTION.

These, in general, in no way differed from previous years, being chiefly defective vision, carious teeth, naso-pharyngeal obstruction, discharging ears and deafness.

TABLE II. (abbreviated).
*Return of Defects found in the course of Medical Inspection
in 1917.*

DEFECT OR DISEASE.				CODE GROUPS.	
				Number referred for treatment.	Number requiring to be kept under observation, but not referred for treatment.
Skin	Malnutrition	...	...	—	29
	Uncleanliness—				
	Head	...	...	—	54
Skin	Body	...	...	—	24
	Ringworm—				
	Head	...	...	6	—
	Body	...	...	2	—
	Scabies	...	...	8	—
	Impetigo	...	...	10	—
Eye	Other disease	...	...	2	2
	Defective vision and squint	...	...	202	52
Ear	External Eye disease	...	...	17	6
	Defective hearing	...	...	7	12
Teeth	Ear disease	...	...	22	—
	Dental Disease	...	...	8	—
Nose and Throat	Enlarged Tonsils	...	...	10 (a)	7 (a)
	Adenoids	...	...	3	1
	Enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids	...	...	8 (b)	— (b)
	Defective speech	...	...	—	13
Heart and Circulation	Heart disease—				
	Organic	...	...	2	2
	Functional	...	...	—	24
Lungs	Anæmia	...	...	—	—
	Pulmonary Tuberculosis—				
	Definite	...	...	—	—
	Suspected	...	...	—	—
	Chronic Bronchitis	...	...	—	7
Nervous System	Other disease	..	..	—	—
	Epilepsy	..	...	1	—
	Chorea	...	...	—	—
	Other disease	...	...	—	1
	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis				
	Glands	...	...	—	7
	Bones and Joints	...	...	—	1
	Other forms	...	...	—	1
	Rickets	...	...	—	—
	Deformities	...	...	—	9
Other Defects or Diseases				15	14
Total				323	266

NOTE.—Most of (a) come under (b) also.

FOLLOWING-UP.

Cases found to require treatment are kept under observation in two ways (*a*) by visits of the school nurses to the homes and (*b*) by re-examination by myself in school.

(*a*) The nurses paid a total of 429 visits in this connection in relation to the following children :—

TABLE IV.

DEFECT.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS.			No Report avail- able.	Number Treated.	Number not treated.	Percentage treated.
	From previous year.	New.	Total.				
Nose & Throat	7	13	20	4	8	12	40
External eye disease	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ear disease ...	3	17	20	3	3	17	15
Teeth ...	5	9	14	—	6	8	43
Lungs ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Vision and Squint	40	225	265	20	87	178	33
Miscellaneous	8	14	22	1	9	13	45
	63	278	341	28	113	228	33

(*b*) Re-examinations by myself in the schools is carried out by a card-index system of special cases. The number of children re-examined is given in Table I. B.

THE SCHOOL CLINIC.

This is purely an inspection clinic, no treatment being given. It is primarily intended for the usual purposes of an inspection clinic, viz.: to inspect, and if necessary temporarily exclude from school, children who are suffering from contagious skin diseases or who are on account of a verminous condition unfitted to attend school. To these are added cases of chronic bad attendance claiming illhealth as a reason, and who are not being attended by a doctor.

INSPECTION, TREATMENT, &c., OF CHILDREN,
DURING 1917.

TABLE V.

(1) The total number of children medically inspected (Code Groups)	2743
(2) The number of children in (1) suffering from defects (other than uncleanliness or defective clothing or footgear) who require to be kept under observation (but not referred for treatment)	157
(3) The number of children in (1) who were referred for treatment (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	298
(4) The number of children in (3) who received treatment for one or more defects (excluding uncleanliness, defective clothing, etc.)	105

Practically all the skin diseases are Impetigo, Scabies, Ringworm and Pediculosis, in that order as regard numbers.

The number of children seen at the clinic in 1917, was 898. They paid an average of 4·5 visits each. The number on the list on December 31st was 135.

MEDICAL TREATMENT.

A scheme of treatment by the Education Authority was in contemplation for cases requiring dental, eye and skin treatment. On the outbreak of war this was necessarily abandoned.

Apart from provision being made by the Education Authority, the facilities for treating school children are not very great. The Hospital cannot attend to all of them, and the majority cannot afford a doctor for such things as eye treatment, conservative dental measures, enlarged tonsils and adenoids, and discharging ears.

CONDENSED STATISTICS FOR 1917.

The following figures from the body of this report show at a glance the amount of work carried out :—

Children systematically examined at School	2743
Children examined at the inspection Clinic	898
Children re-examined in School	387
	<hr/>
	4028
	<hr/>
Visits paid by children to the Clinic	4078
Visits paid by School Nurses to homes	707
„ „ „ „ „ Schools	226

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Head Teachers for their invaluable help, which in many cases has been given at great inconvenience to themselves during a very trying time of staff depletion.

I am, Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. N. STEVENS,

School Medical Officer.

